

THEATRICALS AT BLENHEIM

Given in Aid of Restoration Fund
St. Mary's Church.

LARGE AUDIENCES ATTEND

Performances for Marlborough's Tenants,
Country Families and the Gentry.

HELD IN LIBRARY OF THE PALACE

Entertainment Opened by Organ Over-
ture by Prof. Perkins.

DUKE AND DUCHESS IN TABLEAU

Lady Randolph Churchill and Mr. and Mrs.
White also Took Part—Two-Act Mu-
sical Burlesque Brought the Per-
formance to a Conclusion.

London, Dec. 30.—In aid of the restoration
fund of St. Mary's church, Woodstock,
three performances, consisting of tableaux
and theatricals, have been given at Blenheim
palace. Last night by invitation to the
tenants of the Duke of Marlborough on
the estate; this afternoon for the country
families in the neighborhood who paid half
a guinea a seat, and tonight for the gentry
who paid a crown.

Special trains were run from Oxford and
the audiences were crowded, particularly
tonight.

The entertainment was given in the long
library of the palace. The heavily moulded
white ceiling, electrically lit, the long rows
of red draped book cases and the silver-
ruffled organ, made a fine setting for the
well-dressed crowd. The stage, draped with
red silk curtains, was erected at the western
end, the proscenium surmounted by the
Marlborough arms in a wreath of Christ-
mas greenery, which also suspended from
the ceiling.

The performance opened with an organ
overture by Professor Perkins, of Birmingham,
who composed the music for the musical
burlesque with which it closed. The
participants in the performance were the
Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, Lady
Lillian and Lady Nora Spencer Churchill,
Lady Randolph Churchill, Lady Blanford,
Lady Curzon and Lady Sarah Wilson, and
Lord Chesterfield, Lord Curzon, Mr. Henry
White, secretary to the United States em-
bassy and Mrs. White; Mr. Henry Milner
and Mr. J. Churchill.

The Duke of Marlborough appeared in
two tableaux as Louis XV with the Duchess
as a court lady of the court of Louis XV.
Both dressed the parts splendidly, the
duchess being particularly handsome. Lady
Randolph Churchill, in almost superb
costume, appeared as the Empress Theodora.
Mr. and Mrs. White appeared in a tableau
entitled, "The Eve of St. Bartholomew," Mr.
White as "The Duke of Guise." The tableau
won the heartiest applause. In the last
Lord Curzon appeared as Lord Nelson, the
audience joining in singing "Rule Brit-
annia."

A two-act musical burlesque brought the
performance to a conclusion. Its librettist
is Ian Malcolm, conservative member of
parliament for Suffolk and one of Lord
Salisbury's private secretaries. It is a
feeble piece with no plot to speak of, but
with some smart lines and songs.

The characters were sustained by the
Duke of Marlborough, made up to re-
present Uncle Sam; the Duchess of Marlbor-
ough as the Countess of Klondike; Lady
Randolph Churchill in the role of a wo-
man reporter; J. Churchill, as a Chinaman
and Lord Churchill, Ladies Lillian and
Nora Spencer-Churchill and Hon. Algernon
Bourke in minor parts. The piece contained
many political allusions to Mr. Glad-
stone, Arthur Balfour, Cecil Rhodes, Sims
Reeves, Berbo-Tee, Emperor William and
others. Here is a specimen from the song
of Lady Randolph Churchill:

"No subjects too private for me,
I'd fall on a duchess at tea;
The felon in jail,
The millionaire's mail,
They're matters and money for me."

Song of the Duchess
Here are verses from the song of the
duchess:

"Of course I saw the jubilee,
It was a tiring function;
I saw the queen, the queen saw me,
And bowed with special union.
State concerts, operas and plays,
Innumerable pleased me,
I intermingled nights with days,
Until the megrims seized me."

CHORUS.

"I am so tired,
Terribly, awfully tired,
I think I shall die,
I don't know why,
Except I'm tired."

This she sang prettily, in a sweet, small
voice. She was charmingly dressed and
radiant, and achieved a great success. La-
dy Randolph Churchill showed wonderful
vivacity, acted cleverly and made a hit.
The artistic success of the burlesque,
which is entitled "An Idle Hour," was
achieved by Hon. Algernon Bourke as
Boots, his capital song achieving a triple
encore.

The whole affair was very successful and
netted a considerable sum for the charity.

Killed Her With His Fist
Cincinnati, Dec. 30.—A Millwood, W. Va.,
special says news is received there that
James McCoy, of Murder Run, near Ripley,

killed his sister-in-law, Miss Shamblin, by
a blow of his fist. He had forbidden her to
go to school, but she took her books and
started. He followed and struck her a
heavy blow on the neck, killing her in-
stantly. McCoy is described as a man of
violent temper. He has not been arrested.
He is not a member of one of the "oldest
and best families of the state."

Invitation Accepted
New York, Dec. 30.—President McKinley
has accepted the invitation of the National
Manufacturers' association to attend its
banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria on Jan.
27. Senator Frye of Maine will be one of
the principal speakers. Covers are to be
laid for 800 guests. The president will dis-
cuss the economic features of the tariff.

Ratified the Agreement
Washington, Dec. 30.—A dispatch received
at the interior department announces that
the government of the Seminole nations
of Indians have ratified the agreement re-
cently entered into between the Dawes
Indian commission and a similar body re-
presenting the Seminoles. The agreement
must now be ratified by congress to be-
come effective.

Resolution of Thanks
Bombay, Dec. 30.—The Indian National
congress came to a conclusion today amid
much enthusiasm and cheers for the queen
empress. Resolutions were adopted thank-
ing the people of the United Kingdom, the
British colonies and the United States for
generous aid during the famine. It was
decided to erect at the cost of a thousand
pounds, (\$5,000) a memorial of gratitude in
London.

Other resolutions were adopted criticising
the government's recent measures regard-
ing sedition.

Aquitted of Larceny
Chicago, Dec. 30.—Theo. H. Schintz, law-
yer and private banker, who failed several
months ago, with liabilities aggregating
more than \$100,000, was acquitted today
of the larceny of \$1,000 from Hulda Fontana,
who claimed Schintz received the money
from her knowing himself to be in an in-
solvent condition. Will S. Schintz, cashier
of Theo. Schintz's bank, was also acquit-
ted of the same charge. Many other sim-
ilar charges have been made, one of which
the charge of embezzling of \$30,000 from
the estate of Franz Estel, it is said, will
be brought to trial at once.

MEIKLEJOHN AND SIFTON

Hold Conference on Klondike Re-
lief Expeditions.

ONLY PRACTICABLE ROUTE

To Dawson Is Through the White Pass, Says
Mr. Sifton—Posts Established at Lake
Bennett and Tagish.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Mr. Sifton, the
Canadian minister of the interior, called at
the war department by appointment today
and had a long conference with Assistant
Secretary Meiklejohn, who is giving his
attention to the Klondike relief expedi-
tions, during the illness of Secretary Al-
ger.

Having secured the consent of the Brit-
ish government to the passage of United
States troops to be used as guards over
Canadian territory, what remains to be
done is to arrange for the admission of the
supplies to be taken to the miners without
payment of duties, provided they are not
sold for more than their actual cost. Mr.
Sifton says that the only practical route to
Dawson City is what is known as the
White Pass, or commonly called the Lake
route, commencing at Skaguay, on Lynn
canal.

He states that they have eighty-five men
in the territory, and expects to have fifty
more at Skaguay on or before Jan. 15. They
have twenty tons of supplies stored at
Skaguay for transportation over the pass,
to which will be added ten tons more with-
in the next ten days.

The Canadian authorities have a post at
Lake Bennett and at Tagish at which later
place twenty men are stationed; and a post
at White Horse Rapids and two posts in-
tervening between the latter point and Fort
Selkirk.

It is the intention of the Canadian gov-
ernment to have a detachment of 250 men
in the territory within the next thirty days.
Their detachment will be ready to leave
Skaguay on the 15th proximo, but the min-
ister has kindly consented to hold the ex-
pedition that they may accompany the ex-
pedition of the war department which will
leave Skaguay on or before February 1.

The government has kindly consented to
grant escorts to our expedition provided
the co-operation cannot be consummated.
The government duties upon all supplies
sent in under military control will be
waived by the Canadian government. The
minister was over the pass in October last
year and stated that the government would
be very glad to grant our expedition the
accommodations of their posts on the route,
and grant all other facilities to the move-
ment of our expedition over their terri-
tory.

Mewling of a Cat
Bordentown, N. J., Dec. 30.—Mrs. Anna
Fowler, aged 65 years, was burned to death
in the house of Frank Graham, in this
place, early today. The house and adjoining
property were consumed, entailing a
loss of \$23,000. The members of the
Graham family were aroused by the mewling
of a cat in time to make their escape.

Parted Amidships
Amsterdam, Dec. 30.—The British steam-
er Harrow, from Savannah for Bremen,
before reported ashore at Nieuwe Diep, has
parted amidships. Many bales of cotton
have floated out of her, 120 of which have
been picked up.

To Begin Business
Washington, Dec. 30.—The comptroller of
the currency has authorized the Corn Ex-
change National bank of Chicago, Ill., cap-
ital \$1,000,000, to begin business.

KURTZ SCHEMING TO DEFEAT HANNA

Yesterday Was a Day of Conference With
Anti-Hanna Republicans.

THE DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS

Will Be Summoned to Columbus to Con-
fer With Disgruntled Reps.

MAJOR DICK IS VERY CONFIDENT

That the Proposed Fusion Arrangement Will Be
Given Up—Breeze Created by State-
ment That Representative Snyder
Would Oppose Hanna.

Columbus, O., Dec. 30.—This has been a
day of conferences with anti-Hanna repub-
licans, and from the best information ob-
tainable the results have not been alto-
gether encouraging, although the claims of
the faction have not been modified in the
least. These conferences have been with
the leaders of the democracy, who are in
favor of a fusion with the anti-Hanna re-
publicans to defeat Mr. Hanna. The cen-
tral figures have been Charles L. Kurtz,
leader of the anti-Hanna republicans, and
Allen O. Myers, who is endeavoring to
bring the democratic members-elect of the
legislature into line for the proposed fusion.
At these conferences, which began this
morning and continued into the night, the
democrats were asked to state just how
many of their members they could count
upon in the proposed fusion. It is under-
stood that it was stated seven democratic
members had refused positively to vote for
any one except a democrat for United
States senator, not even a free silver re-
publican. It is also understood that the
number of democrats who will oppose fu-
sion may be increased to ten or fifteen.

The Entire Vote
It developed that almost the entire demo-
cratic vote of the legislature will be re-
quired on a fusion to defeat Senator Hanna
and the democratic leaders are not willing
to enter into any arrangement which may
fail of success, as it would expose the party
to ridicule. It was at once determined to
summon all the democratic members to Co-
lumbus at once and telegrams were sent to
all of them requesting them to report Fri-
day afternoon without fail for a conference.
Whether the plans for a fusion will be
pushed or some other plan be adopted by
Mr. Kurtz will probably be determined by
the conference. The only republican mem-
bers conspicuous at the anti-Hanna head-
quarters in the Great Southern hotel today
were Representatives Brambley and Mason,
of Cleveland.

It was given out that Senator Burke, of
Cleveland, will vote with the democrats
in breaking the slate of the republican
caucus in the senate, but as Mr. Burke has
not yet arrived in the city this statement
could not be verified.

Major Dick who has charge of Senator
Hanna's personal interests was feeling very
confident tonight that the proposed fusion
arrangement would be broken. Sentiment
among the republicans of the state is rap-
idly crystallizing under the vigorous assau-
lt of the republican newspapers upon Mr.
Kurtz and the anti-Hanna movement. It
is claimed that if the anti-Hanna repub-
licans force a deadlock it will bring more
people to the capital than have ever been
here before. The supporters of Mr. Hanna
do not admit that any republican will vote
against him and it is significant that none
of the members claimed to be opposed to
Mr. Hanna have said publicly that they
will not vote for him.

A Breeze Created
A breeze was created today by a state-
ment in an evening paper that Mr. Kurtz's
lieutenants claimed to have a written
pledge from Representative Snyder, of
Greene county, that he would not support
Mr. Hanna. Mr. Snyder publicly declared
last night that he would support Senator
Hanna, and today a delegation of Gov.
Bushnell's appointees at Xenia home for
soldiers' and sailors' orphans, which is lo-
cated in Mr. Snyder's home county, ar-
rived in the city and at once began to in-
terrupt him to change his mind. Mr. Syn-
der was greatly incensed at this inter-
ference, which he considered unwarranted,
and promptly resented it. Tonight he gave
out the following statement:

"There appeared a statement in the Co-
lumbus Dispatch this evening which not
only compromised myself but the good
name of Gov. Bushnell as well. Desiring
to clear our skirts of any blame for the
part which some persons seem to be taking
in opposition to the re-election of Senator
Hanna to the United States senate, I sent
a letter to Gov. Bushnell, and now desire to
say publicly for myself and my county, we
shall support Senator Hanna first, last and
always, believing that the time has come
when anything else is treachery to the re-
publican party."

RAILWAY AGE

Gives Statement of Receiverships and Fore-
closures for 1897.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—The Railway Age makes
the following statement of the receiverships
and foreclosures for 1897:
No year since 1887 has shown so few roads
or so small mileage confessing insolvency,
while compared with the record for any
one of the five years immediately preceding
1897 the list of new receiverships in the last
year is surprisingly small in respect to the
number of lines, mileage and capital in-
volved. In 1893 no less than seventy-four
companies with 23,240 miles and \$1,781,000 of
bonds and stocks defaulted in their obliga-
tions and were turned over to the control
of the courts. In 1897 the number of sim-
ilarly unfortunate roads was eighteen, their
mileage was 1,527 and their capitalization
was less than \$95,000,000. In 1896 the number
of roads was thirty-four, the mileage 5,441
and the capitalization \$275,697,000.

CORBETT GROWS QUITE GENEROUS

Offers Fitzsimmons Money to Sign an
Agreement to Fight.

SAYS PUBLIC IS WITH HIM

Expects Him to Maintain the Manly Dig-
nity of the Ring.

FITZ WAS UNWISELY FORGETFUL

Or He Intended it as a Fake When He Said Cor-
bett Must Prove Himself Worthy Be-
fore a Match Could Possibly Be
Arranged With Him.

Cincinnati, Dec. 30.—James J. Corbett to-
day gave out for publication his challenge
to fight Robert J. Fitzsimmons, which is as
follows:

"Robert J. Fitzsimmons, Champion of the
World: Your published declaration, Mr.
Fitzsimmons, that you intend re-entering
the ring pleases me more than I can at
present express to you, for I know the pub-
lic esteems me to be the only candidate
for the honors you thus place within reach.
I am sorry, however, to note that in
wording this declaration, you give me the
impression that since we last met you have
become unwisely forgetful.

"For instance, you say that before I can
claim a return match with you I must
prove myself to be worthy of you. You cer-
tainly intend this as a joke, for no one in
the world knows my ability better than
yourself. You cannot so soon have for-
gotten your remark to me at Carson, just
after the battle.

"Jim," you said, in your simple, earnest
way, "I'll never fight again. You've given
me a bloody, good licking."

"You, the winner, uttered these words
with face and body so battered as to leave
no doubt of your sincerity, while I, the
loser, listened with never a blush or
scratch from head to foot which could con-
tradict you.

Is Not Consistent

"Is this consistent with your now request-
ing me to prove myself to be a worthy op-
ponent? You will find the confidence of
the public in my ability to entertain you
still unshaken. You will find that the pub-
lic will insist upon your recognizing my
claim that you must meet me again. But
surely you have been misrepresented. I
refuse to credit you with the lame mem-
ory, broken judgment, poor taste and en-
tire untruthfulness which the printed re-
marks alleged to have been made by you
would imply. I prefer to think that those
who entered the ring with me were men,
honest, brave and incapable of the vulgar,
lying and cowardly language in which the
newspapers' version of your remarks was
couched. However, well I know that the
great journals try to be and usually are,
accurate to the letter in reporting utter-
ances made by important men upon im-
portant subjects. I prefer to believe that
in this case a grave error has been made
somewhere, and for a purpose not
worthy of one who wishes to be con-
sidered above contempt.

Not a Brawler

"What the public expects from me is to
maintain the manly dignity of the ring and
not be a brawler, nor a shifty evader of the
honest principles which govern honest men
when adjusting their respective merits.

"This is all I have to say. But this is
what I propose to do: The day we sign
articles, I will give you \$1,000 in recognition
of your courtesy.

"The moment you enter the ring, ready to
offer me battle, I will give you a second
\$1,000 in token of my pleasure.

"You, on the completion of the tenth
round, if you are still undefeated, I will
give you a third \$1,000 as a souvenir of my
surprise.

"Upon defeating you, no matter in what
round, I will give you \$2,000 as a reminder
that I am not an ungenerous foe.

"On the other hand, should you again
defeat me, I promise, if still able to move,
to place my hat upon my head, and then,
removing it in your honor, to proclaim you
in frank and unmistakable terms to be my
superior, and state that I then and there
quit forever all possible claims to the cham-
pionship of the world.

"Let further remarks on this subject be
made by 1,000 clean, honestly earned Amer-
ican dollars given me by the public that
believes in me. I have this day forwarded
these to Will J. Davis of Chicago in tes-
timony that I mean every word I have here-
in spoken."

WILL NOT NOTICE IT.

Fitzsimmons Refuses to Talk, But the Tongue
of Julian is Not Tied.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—"We shall pay no at-
tention to it," said Martin Julian today
when asked what he and Fitzsimmons
would do in regard to Corbett's formal
challenge to the champion. Fitzsimmons
himself refused to discuss the subject, in
accordance with his new plan of operations,
which is to let Julian do the talking.

"We have told Corbett what he can do,"
continued Julian. "Bob did not want to
re-enter the ring at all, but at last I per-
suaded him to fight again on certain con-
ditions. He also explicitly stated that he
would consider fighting only two men—
Corbett and McCoy—and that he should
fight them only after Corbett had defeated
Maher, and McCoy had defeated a man
named by me.

I have named Choyinski for McCoy to
fight. Now Corbett may wear himself out
talking about betting \$10,000 that he can
whip Fitzsimmons."

Concerning McCoy and Choyinski, Julian
said:

"I am going to hold McCoy to his promise
that he would give Choyinski the next
show at him. He cannot get out of it by
saying that Choyinski must come down to

158 pounds, for he knows Joe cannot do
that."

Julian admitted that if McCoy insisted
he wanted to fight no man outside of the
middleweight limit, he (Julian) might con-
sent to name a middleweight. "But," he
said, "it will not be Walcott, nor will it
be Tommy Ryan."

Assignment schedules

New York, Dec. 30.—The schedules in the
assignment of George B. Moorewood & Co.,
shipping and produce merchants, show:
Liabilities \$188,823; nominal assets, \$61,756;
actual assets \$29,949.

Eckels Says Good-Bye

Washington, Dec. 30.—Comptroller of the
Currency James H. Eckels, whose resigna-
tion will take effect tomorrow, called upon
the president this afternoon to pay his re-
spects and say good bye. Mr. Eckels will
leave for Chicago tomorrow morning. His
successor, Charles G. Dawes, will qualify
as comptroller tomorrow and take charge
of the office next Monday.

White Reinstated.

New York, Dec. 30.—Stephen V. White,
the well known financier and daring specu-
lator, who failed in the financial panic of
1893, was reinstated to full membership in
the New York Stock exchange today by
the unanimous vote of the committee on
administration. "Deacon" White has set-
tled all his obligations with interest.

Safe Works Closed

Hamilton, O., Dec. 30.—The large works
of the Herring-Hall Marvin Safe company
were closed today on orders from Judge
Nellan, who appointed S. D. Fitton re-
ceiver for the company last week. On or-
ders from the court, Receiver Fitton bor-
rowed the money to pay all the employes,
and the announcement was made to the
large force of workmen that the plant
would be closed indefinitely.

Receiver Selected

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 30.—Tonight a
meeting was held of attorneys represent-
ing all the creditors of the Krag-Reynolds
company, which recently went into volun-
tary assignment, and the Union Trust com-
pany was agreed upon as receiver. To-
morrow morning the suit of the First Na-
tional bank of Chicago for the removal of
trustee will be dismissed. The trust com-
pany will be appointed receiver tomorrow
by the court.

GOVIN WILL NOT ACCEPT

Proffered Place in Autonomist
Cabinet Refused.

WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT

His Open Criticism of Senor Galvez and Senor
Montero Precludes the Possibility of
His Entering the Cabinet.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 30.—Antonio Govin, who
has been offered the place as minister of
the interior for Cuba by the Spanish gov-
ernment will not accept. He was the
founder of the autonomist party in Cuba
but has no political aspirations now.

"I will never return to Cuba," said Senor
Govin, "in a political character. I have
given up politics and especially the politics
which would aid in the establishment of
Spanish authority in my beloved island.
"Yes," he continued, "I have seen the
newspaper reports which include my name
in the cabinet, which has been selected by
General Blanco to undertake the autono-
mous government of Cuba. But I have re-
ceived no official information of such ap-
pointment and in view of my open criticism
made in this city of the action of Senor
Galvez and Senor Montero, in accepting
such places, it would be inconsistent in me
to follow in their steps.

"It must be remembered that I have
never been counted among the revolution-
ists in Cuba, but that I was wedded to the
interests of my native island against the
interests even of Spain herself has always
been just as clearly understood. When the
peace of San Juan was signed it was evi-
dent that the old methods of governing
Cuba were at an end. The Cubans are of
Spanish blood, and there is that tradition
of race which made many of them feel
kindly to the old Peninsula. Those men
deemed that they could be true to Cuba
and loyal to Spain at the same time, and
they organized the autonomist party, whose
purpose was the preservation of the Span-
ish connection and the conservation of
Cuban interests. In all this we failed and
the war was inevitable. My views of the
Cuban question will not allow me to ac-
cept the place."

Engaging Attention

Pekin, Dec. 30.—The supercession of J.
Milevay Brown, the British superintend-
ent of the Korean customs, is at present
engaging the attention of the British gov-
ernment. With the view of upholding his
reports, four British war vessels are un-
derstood to be off Chemulpo.

Gales Continue

London, Dec. 30.—The gales continue about
the British coasts, and the anchorages are
full of vessels which have sought shelter.
The channel service between Dover and
Calais and Folkestone and Boulogne was
suspended this morning.

Stay of Execution

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 30.—Jim Reid and
Alex Johnson, the condemned murderers of
W. F. Skipper will not be executed at
Monticello tomorrow. The supreme court
has issued a stay of execution pending an
appeal.

Cost 800,000 Pounds.

Calcutta, Dec. 30.—It is officially an-
nounced that the recent famine cost the
treasury £800,000, while loans to agricul-
turalists and suspensions of taxes, mainly
repayable, absorbed another £400,000, irre-
spective of charitable contributions, ap-
proaching £1,750,000.

Mrs. Booth Improved.

New York, Dec. 30.—Mrs. Ballington
Booth was slightly improved at midnight.
Her condition is said to be rather en-
couraging.

JAPAN WORKING NIGHT AND DAY

The Doughty Nation Earnestly
Preparing for War.

IN TOUCH WITH ENGLAND

Fleets of the Two Countries Believed To
Be Acting Together.

MARQUIS ITO FORMING CABINET

Reported Seizure of an Island by
the French.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN CO-OPERATING

Port Arthur and Hai Nan Were Occupied
at the Same Time a Fortnight Ago.
Military Manoeuvres of Great
Magnitude by Japanese.

London, Dec. 31.—A dispatch to the Daily
Mail from Shanghai, dated yesterday
(Thursday) says: A British fleet of eight
ships and four torpedo boats has arrived
at Chemulpo (the port of Seoul). It is re-
ported that there are two Japanese cruis-
ers in the Yang Tze Kiang river. Japan is
working night and day preparing for
war. It is believed that the British and
Japanese fleets are in close touch.

A dispatch from Tokio says Marquis Ito
is forming a cabinet.

According to a dispatch from Nagasaki,
dated yesterday (Thursday) it is believed
that Marquis Ito will aim to maintain a
peaceful attitude.

The Daily Mail has received telegrams
from Hong Kong and Tientsin denying the
report of French occupation of the island
of Hai Nan, but it regards it as morally
certain that Hai Nan was occupied about
a fortnight ago, when Port Arthur was
occupied by the Russians, the coincidence
focusing the suspicion that France and Rus-
sia were acting in concert.

News From Saigon

A dispatch from Singapore, dated yester-
day (Thursday) says: The news that the
French had occupied Hai Nan island was
brought here from Saigon (capital of
French Cochinchina) on Tuesday by the
French mail boat Ernest Simon. Before
the latter left Saigon, on the 25th, the French
cruiser arrived there with either Admiral
Bedollero or letters from him to the French
government of Saigon. The Ernest Simon
delayed for an hour at Saigon in order to
take the governor's dispatch relating to the
hoisting of the flag on the island of Hai
Nan to the French government.

The cause of the delay was known to only
a few officers on board the Ernest Simon,
but inadvertently the secret was imparted
to a French officer (Singapore), who, not
being bound to secrecy, let the matter out.
It is believed the French hold the telegraph
office at Hoi-Kow (Ho-Kow) and prevent
communication to Hong Kong. The cable
between Hai Phong (Tonkin) and Saigon is
broken and under repair, and therefore it
was impossible for Admiral Bedollero to
telegraph the news of the seizure of Sai-
gon.

Admiral Bedollero, with the warships
Bayard and Descartes, left Hong Kong on
Dec. 11. He called at Hai Phong on Dec.
18, and attended the meeting of the defense
committee at Hai Phong about that date,
when the seizure of the island of Hai Nan
was decided